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DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS

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The Korea Institute for National Unification said in a recent publication that there is a high possibility that North Korean leader Kim Jong-il may not survive after 2012. The report also raised the possibility that Washington may seek a regime change in North Korea. (Chosun, Dong-a, Hankyoreh, Segye)

OPINIONS/EDITORIALS

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"ASIA WITHOUT AMERICA," "AMERICA WITHOUT ASIA"  
(Chosun Ilbo, January 20, 2010, Page 34)

By Editorial Writer Park Doo-sik

The Asia-Pacific region had initially been the highest priority on

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's travel schedule for this year. After assuming the post last February, she traveled to the ROK, Japan, and China for her first official trip, and this year, she also planned to visit the Asia-Pacific region. Regarding the fact that, unlike her predecessors, she chose Asia, rather than Europe, as the destination for her first overseas trip, Secretary Clinton said, "Half of diplomacy is showing up."

However, right after arriving in Hawaii, she canceled her trips to Asia-Pacific nations, such as Australia and New Zealand, due to the devastating earthquake in Haiti. Instead, she fully displayed her affection for Asia during her speech at the East-West Center in Honolulu. She stated, "The United States is back in Asia, but I want to underscore we are back to stay." Secretary of Defense Robert Gates also recently said, "The United States is not a visiting power in Asia, but a resident power."

Since the latter half of the 19th century, the U.S. has not left Asia. But why did the U.S. Secretaries of State and Defense suddenly make such statements? The answer can be found at Okinawa south of the main islands of Japan. About 55 years ago, the island was a tragic land. During the 83-day-long battle at Okinawa, which started on April 1, 1945, about 12,000 U.S. soldiers and 110,000 Japanese troops lost their lives, and 150,000 residents of the island were killed. Since then, the tragic island became a symbol of the U.S.-Japan alliance for 55 years. The U.S. had control of Okinawa until it returned the island to Japanese control in 1972, and about 74 percent of the U.S. bases in Japan are still located on this island. The Futenma Air Base is one of them. As U.S. troops

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stationed at Okinawa play the role of a rapid reaction force in the event of an emergency on the Korean Peninsula, they are directly related to security on the Korean Peninsula.

In places with the presence of U.S. bases, there are always conflicts with local residents. U.S. forces carry out flight exercises and incidents erupt continuously. After a decade of negotiations, the U.S. and Japan agreed to relocate the Futenma base to Camp Schwab in Okinawa in 2006. However, in September last year, the Hatoyama Government announced it will comprehensively review the agreement and even stated its preference to move the Futenma base off Okinawa.

This angered the USG. At the end of last year, a growing number of hard-liners said that for the future of the U.S.-Japan alliance, the U.S. should not tolerate the Japanese position. Victor Cha, a professor at Georgetown University and former Director for Asian Affairs at the National Security Council, likened the Hatoyama Government to the Roh Moo-hyun Administration. Cha warned that if Japan tries to jeopardize the U.S.-Japan alliance without a clear strategy and alternatives, its security and economy may face consequences. Others said that the U.S. should not ruin the U.S.-Japan alliance just because of the Futenma issue. Among them is Joseph Nye, a professor at Harvard University, who provided a theoretical rationale for President Obama's "soft power."

Prime Minister Hatoyama's "East Asia community" and "East Asia Summit" initiatives piqued the U.S. more than the Futenma relocation issue, because the initiatives exclude the U.S. The (strong statements) by Secretaries Clinton and Gates that "the U.S. is back in Asia and is back to stay" constitute a warning against ever dreaming of an "Asia without America and an America without Asia."

It is still too early to predict whether the cracks in the U.S.-Japan alliance caused by the Futenma issue will end up as just a passing wind or will turn into a typhoon that could shake the foundations of the 55-year-long diplomatic and security framework in East Asia. It is crystal clear, however, that things that were unimaginable in the past are happening in East Asia. The U.S.-Japan alliance that seemed permanent is being shaken, and China and Japan, which fought against each other throughout the first half of the 20th century, have agreed on joint military drills. At the epicenter of all these changes in East Asia is China which has grown (strong) enough to aim for world supremacy.

ROK SHOULD PROVIDE RELIEF AID TO HAITI TO BECOME "GREAT COUNTRY"  
(Hankook Ilbo, January 20, Page 39)

Haiti's catastrophic earthquake and global relief efforts are grabbing international headlines. While the international community was stepping up relief efforts, the ROKG was only preoccupied with its internal affairs such as the controversial Sejong City project. There has been an international outpouring of sympathy toward a small island in the Caribbean Sea. People in the world are showing compassion and friendship. A country can be called a true "great country" when it can provide generous humanitarian aid to a devastated country regardless of its size. It is a welcome sign that the ROKG and its civilian sector are making active moves to provide relief aid to Haiti.

Haiti's terrible earthquake left 200,000 dead and 3 million homeless, and 2 million need food aid. Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary-General, described the situation in Haiti as "one of the worst humanitarian crises in decades." This disaster is more horrible than the 2004 tsunami in Southeast Asia. The Haiti crisis was (further) fueled by Haiti's fragile government system. UN peacekeeping forces have been stationed in Haiti for a long time.

The international community is intensifying aid efforts because the situation in Haiti is so serious. Old imperialists such as the U.S. and France have a deep interest in the future of Haiti which led the independence movement in Latin America. It is symbolic that the U.S. dispatched 10,000 forces and an aircraft carrier to assist

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relief efforts. France, which sent navy ships and a hospital ship, criticized U.S. forces for blocking a French airplane carrying aid materials from landing, sparking controversy.

What is more noteworthy than this (U.S.-France) squabble is the action of countries, like the EU and China. The EU earmarked 140 million euros in emergency aid for Haiti. Britain offered 20 million euros in aid and its civilian sector pledged 230 million euros. This kind of huge aid from countries that have no clear historical and politico-economic ties and interests is not just humanitarian aid. This is because they know how to increase their global image and dignity and to expand their politico-economic status and influence.

In order to become a truly great country, the ROK, which has considered itself stingy in providing aid, should make contributions in line with its international status, including participation in peace-keeping forces. We (Hankook Ilbo) praise the ROK and its civilian sector for taking affirmative action and also urge them to engage in aid efforts in a meaningful way.

## FEATURES

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CHINA SAYS "WE WILL GIVE ONE MILLION DOLLARS IN AID," TO WHICH TAIWAN REPLIES "WE WILL GIVE FIVE"  
(JoongAng Ilbo, January 19, Page 14)

By Reporter Jeong Hyun-mok

### Haiti Becomes Arena of Competition for Relief Diplomacy

Disaster-stricken Haiti is turning into an arena of competition for "relief diplomacy." Countries are vying to provide relief aid (apparently) in order to secure their influence in Haiti, which will be reborn due to international assistance. The most proactive country is the U.S., which offered \$100 million in assistance and sent a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, along with massive military forces, shortly after a powerful quake struck Haiti.

The U.S.'s aim is to expand its influence in the Caribbean. The U.S. needs to make Haiti, which neighbors Cuba, its ally in an effort to check Cuba. Some observers say that the U.S. wants to restore its

image which was tarnished in 2004 when the Bush Administration failed to take active action following the earthquake and tsunami in Southeast Asia.

Left-wing Latin American countries are not showing a favorable response to the U.S. move. Venezuelan President Chavez denounced the U.S.'s massive troop dispatch as an attempt to occupy Haiti by taking advantage of the country's earthquake. Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega also is calling for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Haiti.

China and Taiwan are also engaging in a tug of war. Haiti is one of the 23 nations that have diplomatic ties with Taiwan, but Haiti does not have diplomatic relations with China. Conscious of Taiwan, China rushed to aid the quake-hit nation. It provided a 50 -member rescue team and 20 tons of equipment and humanitarian aid and pledged to offer 1 million dollars of earthquake aid. Although China publicly says that the aid is aimed at rescuing Chinese servicemen serving the UN peacekeeping operations in Haiti, observers note that China's true intention is to expand its influence in the Caribbean, the U.S. backyard. Taiwan also announced that it would provide 5 million dollars of aid to Haiti, five times as much as China's aid, suggesting that Taiwan will not sit back and watch China expand its clout in Haiti. Taiwanese President Ma Ying-jeou is actively considering a visit to Haiti during his trip to Central and South America at the end of this month. Taiwan also rejected China's proposal for the establishment of a joint rescue and search team in Haiti.

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REPORT SAYS U.S. CONSIDERS STRATEGIES TO INDUCE CHANGE OF THE NORTH'S RULING ELITE  
(Dong-a Ilbo, January 20, 2010, Page 2)

By Reporter Shin Suk-ho

KINU report says, "There is a high possibility that North Korean leader Kim Jong-il may not survive after 2012."

The state-run Korea Institute for National Unification (KINU), on January 19, released a series of reports on a North Korean contingency and the possibility of the U.S. seeking a North Korean regime change after the death of North Korean leader Kim Jong-il. These are the subjects that could not be publicly dealt with under the Kim Dae-jung and Roh Moo-hyun Administrations.

In its publication titled "Strategic Tasks for a Regime Change in North Korea and the ROK's Strategies for Cooperation with its four Northeast Asian countries," the KINU noted, "Although the U.S. is not publicly mentioning a change of North Korea's ruling elite, it probably considers it an implicit alternative." It went on to say, "In order to seek a change of the North's ruling elite or induce the North's policy change, the U.S. may choose one of the three strategies: first, putting continued pressure on the North and getting him out of power through a royal coup d'tat; second, taking military steps to remove North Korean leader Kim; and third, waiting until Kim, who is aged and is suffering from disease, dies a natural death.

The KINU, in another publication titled "Study of Long-range Policy for Unification," predicted, "There is a high possibility that North Korean leader Kim Jong-il may not survive after 2012," adding, "After Kim, emergencies, such as a change of the leadership in power like a military coup d'tat, civil unrest or riot, a large-scale massacre, and the occurrence of massive refugees, may likely happen in North Korea."

STEPHENNS